

level, in every farm bill going back over 50 years; and was sharp, witty, and hilarious. Dr. Flinchbaugh did more for Kansas farmers than possibly anyone else during his lifetime.

His expertise in ag policy led him to meet every President from Harry Truman to George W. Bush. But he wasn't interested in notoriety. He was passionate about his family, his field of study, and his students, who were his legacy and his pride and joy. I was one of the 5,000 students Dr. Flinchbaugh taught over the span of 49 years, and I can picture him now, cigar in hand, holding court in his classroom or in his office, surrounded by transfixed young people, many of whom would later go on to become leaders in the very field they learned from him.

I would like to close with one of his quotes that I think we all need to hear, especially in this deliberative body at the present time. He said: "There are two ways to make public decisions: compromise or dictatorship. There's nothing in between."

#### RECOGNIZING JULIAN STANFORD

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. CARTER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the resiliency and the courage of Julian Stanford. Julian is a 17-year-old high school student who was recently involved in a life-changing accident.

While driving home after work on August 21, Julian attempted to avoid an oncoming vehicle, resulting in paralyzing injuries. Julian was transferred to the Shepherd Center in Atlanta, Georgia, where his treatment has been centered around healing and prayer.

Prior to his accident, Julian was an honor roll student and an active leader in his high school's Republican Party. Known throughout his community for his laughter and his love of music, Julian's passion for life is truly inspiring.

Despite the extent of his injuries, Julian continues to fight daily with his mom by his side. Julian is a living miracle whose determination is remarkable.

I am praying for Julian and his family, that he makes a full recovery, and I know he will go on to achieve great things.

Julian, we love you and you inspire us. Keep up the good fight.

#### RECOGNIZING NATIONAL SUICIDE PREVENTION MONTH

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize September as National Suicide Prevention Month. This important month is an opportunity to remember those who have lost their lives to suicide and share resources to fight the stigma surrounding mental health challenges.

As the tenth leading cause of death in the United States, suicide affects Americans from all walks of life. The challenges surrounding mental health

can be complex, but we owe it to our constituents to utilize every resource to better understand the factors contributing to suicide.

A critical part in suicide prevention is equipping ourselves and our communities with the resources needed to fight this tragic occurrence. From engaging in open conversations about mental health to checking on our neighbor, there are steps we can all take to help those in crisis.

September may be Suicide Prevention Month, but community engagement and prevention efforts should be maintained year-round.

I encourage everyone to educate themselves on the warning signs of suicide, as it could save a life.

#### REMEMBERING DON AND MARGIE VARNADOE

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to remember and honor Don and Margie Varnadoe of Glynn County, Georgia, who tragically passed away on September 25. Don and Margie were aboard Amtrak's Empire Builder train when it derailed near Joplin, Montana.

Don and Margie were known throughout the community for their service to the Glynn County school system. Margie was a teacher, a principal, a personnel director, and assistant superintendent. She was loved by her students and peers for her dedication to educating our future generations.

Don was a retired St. Simons real estate agent and school board member for four years. During his term, Don focused on improving the school system so that all students in Glynn County could have a positive learning experience.

Both cared immensely for their community, and I am thankful for Don and Margie's impact on Georgia's First Congressional District. Their irreplaceable presence will be missed by all.

#### SERIOUS PROBLEMS ARE GETTING WORSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. BURCHETT) for 5 minutes.

Mr. BURCHETT. Madam Speaker, Joe Biden preached vague, feel-good messages to voters, like healing our country and pursuing bipartisanship, during his campaign for President. In his victory speech, he ripped off a line from Barack Obama and said: "I pledge to be a President who seeks not to divide but to unify, who doesn't see red and blue States but a United States."

Madam Speaker, these messages were blatant lies. His record 8 months into his tenure proves his only intention is to govern on behalf of the Democrat Party's far-left base.

Look at the ongoing farce on our southern border. The Department of Homeland Security just released thousands of unvetted Haitian migrants into this country, no questions asked. Even worse, the President turned his back on Border Patrol agents over that bogus horse photo.

Our government wouldn't behave this way unless it was worried about backlash from leftists who want to open our borders and defund the Immigration and Customs Enforcement agency.

The border has been out of control from the moment Joe Biden stepped foot in the Oval Office. Month after month after month, we hear about Border Patrol agents encountering hundreds of thousands of migrants attempting to illegally enter our country. President Biden put Vice President HARRIS in charge of fixing our southern border, but whatever she is doing to "address the root cause of migration" obviously isn't working.

Last week, the White House press secretary whined about Republicans giving floor speeches about the crisis at the border. I say to the press secretary: We wouldn't need to be down here raising Hades if your boss would quit being so soft, start doing his job, and enforce the dadgum border laws.

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Chaos at the southern border is just one of the many crises of Joe Biden's own creation. I could stand down here for hours talking about inflation caused by reckless government spending, a failed exit from Afghanistan that left 13 American servicemembers dead, including one of my constituents—his family lives in my neighborhood—and much more.

But my point is this, Madam Speaker, Americans across the political spectrum see Joe Biden standing idly by while this country is being destroyed. They think this President is grossly incompetent and incapable of responsibly running the executive branch. I have even talked to Democrats here in Congress who are extremely concerned about these very issues.

Serious problems are getting worse, yet Joe Biden doesn't show any interest in solving them. Given this President's lack of interest in serving as Chief Executive, I can confidently say this President is mentally unwell and unfit for office.

It is time for Joe Biden to step down. We need a leader who cares about the future of this country, not one who isn't even aware of the damage he is causing.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to refrain from engaging in personalities toward the President.

#### WE MUST SECURE OUR BORDER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS) for 5 minutes.

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to discuss the ongoing border crisis.

Last week, President Biden's Homeland Security Secretary, Alejandro Mayorkas, told Congress, "The border is secure." The facts indicate that this statement was absolutely false.

The Biden administration has embraced policies to open the southern

border, not to secure it. In reality, these open border policies have created one of the worst border crises in history.

According to U.S. Customs and Border Protection, this August alone, 208,887 people were apprehended trying to illegally enter our country through the southern border, which is a 317 percent increase from last August. It is really a big problem, Madam Speaker.

Since February of 2021, the agency says more than 1.2 million people have been apprehended illegally crossing the border. That staggering statistic represents more than the entire Pasco or Pinellas Counties, which are in my congressional district. I represent them.

When I was at the border a few months ago, Madam Speaker, the CBP agents I spoke with made it clear that they weren't even making a dent when it came to capturing the historic number of people who are illegally entering our country or with seizing the extraordinary volume of drugs that are flowing across the border.

That is truly unfathomable when you consider that CBP has seized 724 pounds of fentanyl and 595 pounds of heroin so far in fiscal year 2021.

These deadly drugs don't just stay in communities along the border. They are spread throughout the country into communities like mine in the Tampa Bay area. These drugs are ruining and claiming countless lives, Madam Speaker. In fact, Florida currently ranks second in the Nation for overdose deaths.

These are our neighbors and members of our family who are dying. We have to take action now.

In addition to drugs, weapons and humans are being trafficked through the border. Human traffickers are making an estimated \$15 million a day. I am concerned for these victims, many of whom are children.

The root causes of this crisis are clear. President Biden's disastrous immigration policies are to blame. His administration stopped building the wall, brought back catch-and-release, and tried to get rid of the remain in Mexico policy.

The President himself has actually articulated a new openness toward migrants; something the leaders of Central America point to as a root cause of the crisis they are seeing.

The situation at the border is a dangerous, unmitigated disaster, Madam Speaker.

Especially now, as our enemies feel emboldened by what recently transpired in Afghanistan, we have to secure our border as a matter of national security.

#### HISTORIC INVESTMENTS IN INFRASTRUCTURE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) for 5 minutes.

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to highlight the work Congress

is undertaking to make historic investments in our Nation's infrastructure and create millions of good-paying jobs in communities across our country, coast to coast, communities just like mine.

Cities like Toledo, Sandusky, Lorain, Lakewood, Cleveland, Parma, for too long have received far fewer resources than are needed to keep pace with life in this 21st century.

As we look around our country right now, we bear witness to historic water shortages in Lake Mead. On the other hand, in my region of the country, we have historic high water levels in the Great Lakes. Meanwhile, we have raging wildfires in California. We have watched power blackouts in Texas; torrential rains and flooding in New York City, in Dearborn, Michigan, and rural farmlands outside Nashville; as well as hurricanes that have been ravaging States throughout the Gulf of Mexico.

Truly, in this new century, we must set a firmer course to sustain life in our country and, yes, sustain life on Mother Earth herself.

As a Representative from the Great Lakes, I can say without a shadow of a doubt that Lake Erie and the economies and people who truly rely on it face growing environmental challenges unlike any we have seen before.

The Great Lakes are the largest source of freshwater on Earth, and surely on this continent. They are responsible for transporting our Nation's heavy manufacturing materials from ports to factories, support our commercial and defense capabilities, and serve as the lifeblood for our industrial heartland.

But the changing climate is impacting these majestic waters, requiring sizable investments to correct and overcome.

Recently, the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee included \$350 million for a new state-of-the-art—get ready—Great Lakes heavy icebreaker for our region. Some Members of Congress said, "Oh, you have ice?" Let me tell you, in the winter, yes, we do. This investment will ensure that for decades to come the thousands of miles of shipping lanes of the Great Lakes and the Saint Lawrence Seaway, our Nation's longest coastline, are navigable, and that the materials that make our country run are able to be delivered and that our freshwater bounty is preserved for the future.

I want to especially thank Chairman PETER DEFAZIO of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee for taking up this request from our bipartisan House Great Lakes Task Force.

As co-chair of the Appropriations Subcommittee on Energy and Water, our members delivered the funding bill necessary to turbocharge investments in coastal resiliency across our country; in home weatherization programs, as climate changes from coast to coast; to modernize the Soo Locks, essential for industry as well as the defense of this Nation; and to focus on next-gen-

eration energy, solar energy technology, and technologies we are inventing. In hydrogen, in various types of thermal water technologies there is so much where America will lead the world in inventions for the future.

To succeed, we have to make sure these investments make it through this Congress and that infrastructure investment makes it to President Biden's desk. Old infrastructure is crumbling, as our climate is changing, and we are running out of time.

We know that a functioning Soo Locks system between Lake Superior and the rest of the Great Lakes, for example, supports more than 11 million jobs. That is a "wow" by any measure.

And we know that clean energy technologies, like solar and wind, are vital to powering our Nation and producing clean and affordable energy, and building our future right here, right now at home.

In northern Ohio, we have brilliant workers at innovative companies like Toledo Solar and First Solar that are developing the revolutionary solar panels that will power homes, businesses, and factories in every corner of our Nation.

We are literally building the change forward right now, providing for our domestic energy security and independence.

But companies like these need workers, and workers need training, and that is what the infrastructure and jobs bill will allow us to do, build back better for America's tomorrow, as President Biden knows we must.

We are talking about good-paying, middle-class jobs. We are talking about investing in climate resilience and environmental conservation that restores communities, puts people to work, and ensures our families have wages that meet their needs and allow them to buy the vitals they need for life.

#### HONORING THE LIFE OF SHERWOOD BOEHLERT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. TENNEY) for 5 minutes.

Ms. TENNEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of my former Congressman, Sherwood Boehlert, affectionately known by everyone as Sherry.

Sherry was a devout public servant who passed away last week at the age of 84. After serving in the United States Army, his love for his community and State led him to begin his career in public service. He was elected as the Oneida County Executive in 1979. He was then elected to represent our community in the House of Representatives in 1983 and served for 24 years, until 2006.

Throughout his time in Congress, Sherry was committed to representing our region to the best of his ability. He returned home whenever he could. In 2001, he was elected chair of the House Committee on Science, a coveted position that built on his love of nature